

From the middle of the month onward there was considerably less precipitation than before in the far Northwest, the most important wet period coming about the 17th to 19th. An important storm caused much precipitation from the 20th to 22d over the middle Mississippi Valley and districts to northeastward, with especially heavy falls over the Ohio Valley, and shortly afterward a vigorous storm took a more southerly course, from the Texas coast on the 21st northeastward to the New England coast on the 25th, causing decidedly heavy rains in many parts of the Gulf and South Atlantic States and more moderate rains and snows to northward.

Meanwhile, about the 24th, California, Nevada, and Arizona, where the first half of the month had been dry for midwinter, received much rain and snow in connection with a storm which crossed the country not far from the fortieth parallel of latitude, and caused widespread rainfall or snowfall in the eastern half from the 26th to 28th. Another storm caused rain from central Oklahoma and northeastern Texas to the Carolinas and southern Middle Atlantic States just before the end of the month, and at the same time important precipitation occurred again in the far Southwest.

The precipitation for the month was abundant over a narrow strip from north-central Texas northeastward to New England, especially in Arkansas, close to and just south of the Ohio River, and from eastern Pennsylvania over the southern New England States and the coast districts of Maine. To southeastward it was generally less than normal, but was usually ample, save in the Florida Peninsula and parts of southern Georgia. In the Lake region and the north-central portion of the country the precipitation was mainly about normal or somewhat below. From the lower and middle Missouri River and the Black Hills region southwestward to the Mexican border in New Mexico and far western Texas there was decidedly little precipitation, considerable areas reporting none at all. Arizona and California had usually less than normal, the portions which are naturally driest being, as a rule, without precipitation of consequence; but other districts west of the Continental Divide had mainly rather more precipitation than normal, the excess being marked between the Cascade Mountains and the coast.

SNOWFALL.

The snowfall of January was about average in most higher districts of the far West, save to east and south of the Colorado River, and was heavy in the northern portions of the Lakes region, and especially in the Northeast. At Portland, Me., the snowfall for the month was the greatest for any month in more than half a century, and at New Haven the fall was the greatest January amount, with one exception, during a like period, and the average for all the New England States was the greatest in the 35-year period of comparative records.

The southern New England States, southeastern New Hampshire, and southwestern Maine had an unusual accumulation at the end of the month, causing great hindrance to transportation. Most of New York and the northern portions of New Jersey and Pennsylvania had much greater snowfall than the average. The southern Middle Atlantic States had less snow than usual, and this was emphatically the case from northern Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois and southern Iowa southward, also in the middle Plains.

In the Dakotas and at the lower elevations of the far West the snowfall was mainly light, and owing to high temperatures the ground was bare to a greater extent than usual. The high mountains, as a rule, retained a good stored depth and received a considerable addition, resulting in average or better prospects for spring and summer flow in the streams fed by melting snows, save in New Mexico and parts of Arizona and Colorado where the depths are small and the outlook is discouraging.

RELATIVE HUMIDITY.

Over most of the country the average relative humidity was less than normal, the deficiency ranging up to 20 per cent or more in the Great Plains. In North Dakota and thence eastward to the Great Lakes there was a general excess in the percentage, and this was true over New England. There were likewise local areas in the South Atlantic and Gulf States with percentages above normal, as well as in the far West.

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS.

The table herewith contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A more complete statement will appear in the annual report of the chief of bureau.

Place.	Date.	Time.	Width of path (yards).	Loss of life.	Value of property destroyed.	Character of storm.	Remarks.	Authority.
Petersburg, Va., and vicinity.	1	a. m.				Wind.	Roof of home blown off, small outhouses blown down, and tobacco houses wrecked.	Times-Dispatch (Richmond, Va.).
New York City.	1					Wind and rain.	Large glass sign blown down. Store window damaged.	Daily News (New York).
Asheville, N. C.	7	9:30 p. m.				Thunderstorm.	Some damage to telephone lines.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Denver, Colo.	7-8					Wind.	Roofs torn from buildings, trees and poles down, much damage to light and power lines.	Times (Denver, Colo.).
Fort Collins, Colo.	7-8				\$3,000	do.	A half-finished house was destroyed and other property damage reported.	Do.
Laramie, Wyo.	7-8			1	2,000	do.	Buildings unroofed, chimney and wires blown down.	Do.
Lake Charles, La., and vicinity.	22			1	1,000,000	Tornado.	Several persons injured and a number of houses wrecked.	Daily News (New York); Times-Herald (Washington, D. C.).
Chattanooga, Tenn., and vicinity.	23					Ice.	Damage to telephone poles, wires, and timber.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Anniston, Ala., and vicinity.	23	a. m.				Wind and rain.	Windows broken, trees blown down, and traffic held up; 2 persons injured.	Star (Anniston, Ala.).
Georgia.	23-24				250,000	Wind and sleet.	Communication with outside points hampered; public utilities throughout the State report damage to power plants and wires.	News (Pensacola, Fla.); official, U. S. Weather Bureau.
Abilene, Tex. (25 miles south-east of).	30	p. m.	300			Tornado.	Residences and outbuildings damaged.	Official, U. S. Weather Bureau; Dallas Morning News (Tex.).